

of a 4 cell torch from about 2 to 3 m.

The second sighting of the cat was made on 16 December 1990 at 2200 hrs in a small cultivated area near the same stream. This observation was made for about 3 min. and confirmed by S.A. Chavan. Since we had the photographs of the rusty spotted cat (taken in Gir by Bharat Pathak) there was no possibility of misidentification.

This cat had been recorded earlier in Dangs forests by H.H. Maharaja of Bansda. As Rajpipla forests, Sagbara,

Mandvi, Vyara and Dangs formed a continuous corridor of moist deciduous forests in the past, there is every possibility that this species existed in this belt, but had not been identified earlier in Rajpipla forests.

S.A. CHAVAN  
C.D. PATEL  
S.V. PAWAR  
N.S. GOGATE  
N.P. PANDYA

March 12, 1991

#### 4. BEHAVIOUR OF A JACKAL *CANIS AUREUS* AT A LEOPARD *PANTHERA PARDUS* KILL

On 2 March 1990 I sat over a cow killed by a leopard *Panthera pardus* in a ravine near Perohit-ji-ka-Talab, a small lake near Udaipur. The blind was 15 m from the kill and I took up my position in the hide at 1530 hrs. After a lapse of an hour I heard the alarm call of langur *Presbytis entellus* and 15 minutes later I saw a leopard descending on my right into the ravine. Probably it noticed the unnatural construction near the kill and sensed some danger so it stopped about 100 m from me behind some bushes, almost concealed from me. After some time it rose, took a long detour around the hide and took up its position about 40 m from the hide. Only the tail of the leopard was visible from my position. Here the terrain was undulating and strewn with boulders and thick bushes. Towards my left it was comparatively flat, with a few bushes.

Just before dusk I spotted a jackal *Canis aureus* approaching the kill from the left. It was in a highly nervous

state, stepping carefully, sniffing constantly up and down and occasionally whipping around to look behind. It came to the kill and before feeding on it again looked carefully around.

At this moment the leopard gave a loud cough. The jackal turned round like lightning gave a low whining sound and fell head over heels. Regaining its feet it tried to run hard, but after taking two or three steps it again fell and did a complete somersault. It turned four somersaults, twice fell headlong on the ground and finally disappeared from sight. The leopard did not even rise to its feet. As darkness approached I left the blind and was greeted by the leopard with growls. On many occasions I have seen jackals on leopard kills but have never seen a jackal in such a panic.

April 4, 1990

RAZA TEHSIN

#### 5. FOOD PIRACY BY JACKAL *CANIS AUREUS* FROM A JUNGLE CAT *FELIS CHAUS* IN CHHARI-DHANDH, KUTCH

On 27 May 1990 at 1930 hours, we were on a general reconnaissance of the terrain around Fulay village in Chhari-Dhandh, Kutch, Gujarat. About 4 km west of Fulay, we saw a jungle cat *Felis chaus* preying on a snake, and when observed it was walking, carrying its prey. Suddenly, from behind an *Euphorbia* thicket a jackal *Canis aureus* emerged and sprang on the cat, in an obvious attempt to snatch its prey. The cat resisted the jackal's efforts for some time during which a brief struggle ensued between the two. The jackal chased the cat for some distance and almost grabbed the prey during the first few at-

tempts, but each time the cat managed to evade its assaults.

Finally the jackal snatched the dead snake from the cat, and disappeared behind the rocks. The cat too left the area after a brief attempt to regain its prey. This is the first instance of food piracy by a jackal from a jungle cat. Snakes have not been listed as a food item of either the jungle cat or the jackal so far.

November 16, 1990

S. ASAD AKHTAR  
J. K. TIWARI